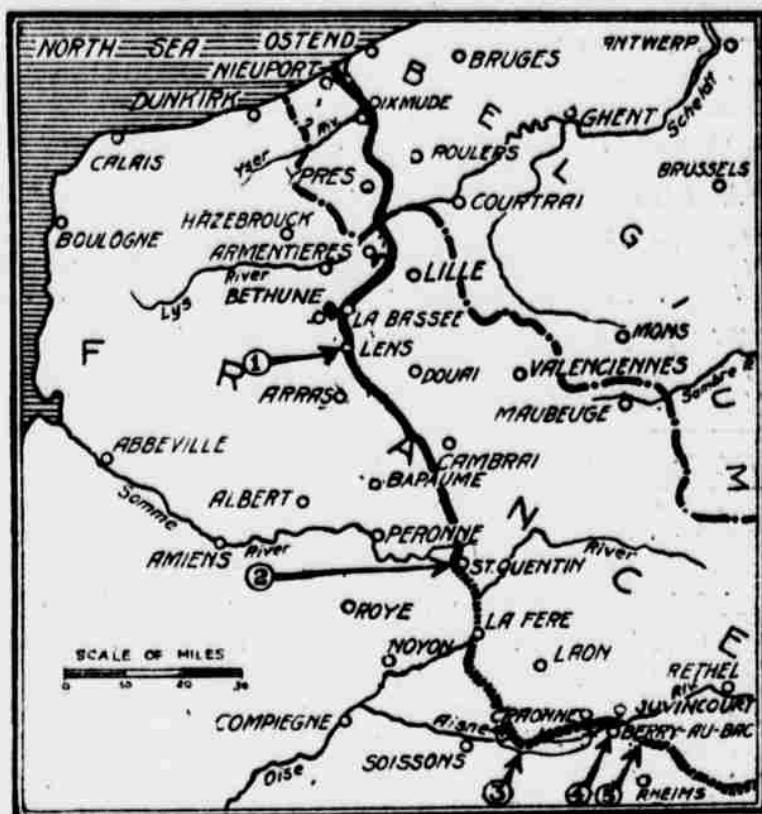


Where the French Hit the Line.



Map of the western front from the North Sea to Rheims, showing the big French offensive begun yesterday in cooperation with the British drive. Black line is the British front, broken line the French front.

Arrow 1 indicates Lens, northern limit of British drive, which the Germans held only with rear guards.

Arrow 2 indicates St. Quentin, now practically surrounded by British and French. The British are reported to have broken the Hindenburg line to-day northwest of the city in a new place.

Arrows 3, 4 and 5 indicate the French offensive on a twenty-five mile front from east of Soissons to north of Rheims. Arrow 3 indicates region where French have captured the entire German first line on a fifteen mile front. Arrow 4 indicates region where the second line as well as the first has been captured on a smaller front. Arrow 5 indicates other gains of the French offensive.

Hindenburg line joins the old German line east of Soissons and the French are smashing this junction as well as driving at Laon.

nothing thrusts yesterday infantry fighting developed this morning over wide sectors.

FIGHT STARTED TO KILL CONSCRIPTION

BERLIN EXPLAINS.

Says All German Lines in France Are Hindenburg Lines.

AMSTERDAM, via London, April 16.—It is asserted in a dispatch received from Berlin that various villages in the Arras region which the British captured during the April 14 offensive, were villages and pieces of ground which the Germans had voluntarily evacuated several days previously.

"The English press," says the dispatch, "is circulating reports regarding the piercing of the Hindenburg line. The English attempt to break through was directed, however, against old positions held since 1913, and despite local successes it has completely and finally failed."

It is not clear what the English press mean by the Hindenburg line, for all lines are Hindenburg lines.

VIMY VICTORY COSTLY.

Canadian Losses Between 5,000 and 6,000 Men.

OTTAWA, April 16.—Estimates of Canadian losses around Vimy, based on good authority, place the casualties from the commencement of the Vimy offensive until last night between 5,000 and 6,000. Five hundred and thirty Canadian officers fell last week on Vimy Ridge, according to the information. The totals include killed and wounded, with the latter dominating.

The Canadian casualty list given out today includes the following Americans: Killed in action—Frank Remington, 1213 McCrean Avenue, Detroit, Mich. Severely wounded—William Laves, 201 Baldwin Avenue, Detroit; Ralph Joseph Baker, 118 West Seventy-fifth street, Philadelphia. Seriously wounded—Homer Hamilton, Kroll, China, Cal. Died of wounds—Griffith E. Dudley, Port Menzies, Fla.

Mexico Levies New Oil Taxes.

MEXICO CITY, April 16.—A decree issued last night puts a tax of 10 per cent on oil exports, on crude oil and fuel oil from the Mexican fields. The value is to be based on the basis of oil. The specific gravity of oil, with a decrease in value for oil of greater density and an increase for less density.

British Take Villers.

British day statements: We captured last night the village of Villers, southeast of Hargicourt, and progressed northeast of Lens.

Full particulars of the booty we took at Villers and on the Soudan River are unavailable, but the fact is established that our captures were exceedingly large. In addition to a large number of machine guns, mortars and great quantities of bombs and grenades of all kinds. In addition truck loads of new tools, many thousands of cartridges, machine tools, complete, and two large engine dumps have fallen intact into our possession.

The attack at Monchy-lez-Duoux on the 14th was repulsed by the enemy with great determination. The Third Bavarian Division, which was brought down to resist our offensive during the battle of Lens in 1915 and later on took part in the Arras campaign, was in the divisions already in the line. It was ordered to retake Monchy-lez-Duoux at all costs. Its losses in this fruitless attack were exceptionally heavy, as has been the case with all the Bavarian troops throughout the whole recent operations. Of the prisoners taken by us since the 9th more than one-third are Bavarians.

The Berlin Report.

German Day Statement.—On the northern bank of the River Scarpe our destructive fire kept down the British machine guns and a storming attack could not be carried out.

Northeast of Cambrai our fire repulsed a strong British attack, the enemy suffering severe losses.

North of the Arras-Cambrai road our thrusts drove the enemy back on Lagnicourt and Bourlens. To the sanguinary losses of the Australians must be added the loss of 475 prisoners and 15 machine guns which have been brought in, and also 25 guns captured and rendered useless by explosion.

At St. Quentin the artillery fire again has increased.

From Soissons in Rheims and in the eastern Champagne there was exceptional heavy artillery fire and mine throwing.

After the failure of enemy recon-

Insurance means only money. Photographs concern the heart.

THE MACDONALD PHOTOGRAPHER OF MEN.

106 FIFTH AV. (COR. 47th ST.)

SUPREME TEST OF WAR BEING MADE

British and French Prepared for Titanic Struggle for Supremacy.

GERMANS ARE TRAPPED

Allies Fire Hundred Rounds a Minute While Foes Attack Their Own Wires.

From a Staff Correspondent of the Associated Press.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, April 16.—With the hot flames of war raging along the entire western front, British and French alike, it can be stated that each detail of the offensive plans has been worked out in prolonged conferences between the Neville and Field Marshal Haig and the war councils of France and England. The part to be played by each belligerent has been definitely agreed upon, and a schedule has been arranged as for one great cohesive force. Various tasks have been precisely allotted along the wide reaching battle lines, and the results thus far attained justify the conclusion that the supreme military test of the war is near at hand.

It was planned that the British should strike from Arras while the French guns were still roaring their preparation for infantry hostilities along a wide front further to the south. The success of the British advance has given the French great confidence in the inauguration of their own enterprises.

Prepared as Never Before.

The whole struggle in the western theatre promises to be a titanic one. The Allies are prepared as never before both in material and personnel and are co-operating with a smoothness which comes from a complete understanding and thorough appreciation of the work in hand.

The Germans have more divisions on the western front than would have been thought possible a year ago, and however much of an "easterner" Field Marshal von Hindenburg may have been in the past he will have to devote his entire time and attention to western events for some weeks to come.

Already half a score of Germany's best divisions have been smashed to pieces by the British onslaught and their own unsuccessful counter attacks. The Bavarian divisions were sacrificed first, but the Prussian Guard divisions, thrown into stem the British flood tide, have been suffering such casualties in the past few days that they will have to be replaced. The Canadians accounted for a large contingent of grenadiers in the fighting about the Peupie, while yesterday's affair at Lagnicourt took its heaviest toll both in dead and prisoners from five German Guard regiments.

Trapped by Their Own Wires.

It will ever be one of the most striking pictures of this war the rout of the Germans at Lagnicourt after what they believed to have been a successful attack. Running for their own trenches, which were part of the famed Hindenburg line, they were trapped by the

barbed wire entanglements which had been built with such great strength and thickness in front of them. The boast of the Hindenburg line has been its belts of protective wire. Caught within the meshes of this wire, the German guardsmen screamed madly for help and guidance. Some, like trapped rabbits, scurried up and down the outer barrier, searching in vain for openings.

The British troops meantime, had the greatest opportunity for open field rifle shooting since the battle of the Marne. Lying flat upon the ground, they poured bullets into the panic-stricken, gray-coated Germans until each man had fired a full 100 rounds.

While this was going on, the British field guns came into play with a shrapnel barrage, which completed the demolition of the entrapped enemy. It was little wonder that later 1,500 German dead could be counted or that 400 guardsmen surrendered with upheld hands and emotional cries of "Kamerad."

Sacrificing Picked Troops.

Everywhere they have been pushed back from the British front, and especially north of the "rolled up" portion of the Hindenburg line the Germans are endeavoring by every means to gain time in order to complete defenses upon which to fall back. Their efforts to dig in everywhere and seek the shelter of strongly fortified lines do not tend to corroborate the oft-stated German hopes that the warfare might become open again.

In fighting these retarding actions the Germans are sacrificing their picked troops, as they did during the rear guard engagements in the recent retirement on the Somme. The character of the troops selected for these engagements is considered the best evidence of the importance the Germans attach to what plainly appears to be their desire to avoid decisive battles just at this time.

Lens was virtually invested today, although the Germans are making a desperate effort to hold their position about the town. The British are now in the back of the German lines, necessitated by the battle of Arras. Against these German strong points many German guns were turned today, for with the heavy pieces captured by the British

were thousands of rounds of ammunition. British gun crews were rushed up to man these weapons, which were turned around in their own pits, thus forming British gunnery outposts while their own guns were moving forward.

Mines Being Destroyed.

Explosions continue within Lens and the outlying mine districts and there seems little doubt that the mines certainly will be destroyed as far as possible. Lens Cathedral was still standing today, apparently little damaged. Fires were still seen within the German lines.

About St. Quentin, at the southern point of British activity, there has been hard fighting, much of it being hand to hand. As one officer expressed it, "Our men got in well with the bayonet, causing heavy losses to the enemy."

The prisoners taken in the southern parts of the line had heard nothing of the Arras fight, except that a British attack was somewhere crushed and that the Germans had taken hundreds of prisoners. "A certain Irish regiment fighting in the vicinity of Lens has during a breathing spell taken pains to inform the enemy of the results at Arras. Some of the adventurous spirits planted boards in No Man's Land a few nights ago saying, 'We took 5,000 Hunns yesterday.'"

The Germans endeavored all next day to shoot the board down but they did not succeed. That night the Irish planted a second board, reading, "We made a mistake. Should have been eleven thousand Hunns instead of nine."

Canadians Save Irishmen.

The Irishmen fought with great bravery just under the brow of the plateau of Vimy Ridge, and were up against a steady stream of machine gun fire from the Germans. The Canadians wiped it off the face of the earth.

"We knew the Canadians would clear them out, so we didn't worry," said a smiling Irishman today.

There was fighting all day about Monchy-lez-Duoux, east of Arras, which already has witnessed the fiercest encounters since the battle of Arras began Monday. It is a little Vimy Ridge all by itself, standing south of the last high ground of the battle, upon miles of plains sweeping seaward. The

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